

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2014

Central Public Library

Room N-202

300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board Chair Nick Cichowicz called the board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Other board members in attendance were:

Chad DiDonato, Vice Chair

Claudia Kittock

Carletta Sweet

Jesse Winkler

Peter Zenner, Secretary

Board members Gerry Ewald and Laurie Jones were absent.

Staff member Christie Rock was present.

Guests in attendance were:

Carrie Aspinwall, City of Minneapolis NCR Department

Jackie Barrett, Valspar Corporation

Janice Bitters, *Minneapolis / St. Paul Business Journal*

Roger Christensen, HCM Architects

Bob Lind, City of Minneapolis CPED

Diane Lucas, Catholic Eldercare

Jay Ludke, Aide to Third Ward City Council Member Jacob Frey

Miles Mercer, City of Minneapolis CPED

Allen Poppe, Downtown resident / Urban MSP

Christopher Trembath, City of Minneapolis Public Works

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Sweet moved and DiDonato seconded a motion to approve the February 6, 2014 board meeting agenda. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. 2014 Street Resurfacing Projects

Chris Trembath, Supervisor Engineering Technician, City of Minneapolis Public Works Department, distributed printed information and described the two 2014 street resurfacing projects planned for the downtown community: (1) on Hennepin Avenue between 12th and 16th Streets in Lording Park; and (2) on 4th Avenue South between 10th and 15th Streets in Downtown West.

Street resurfacing involves milling or grinding off a layer of asphalt and replacing it with a new layer of asphalt as opposed to complete street reconstruction which involves removing the road

and sub-grade soils, curbs, and gutters then rebuilding all of those elements. The purpose of resurfacing is to extend the life of the street (estimated to be by 10 years) and delay more expensive roadway fixes or reconstruction to future years. Complete street reconstruction also involves the replacement of public utilities such as sewer and water pipes.

Trembath explained that the City pays for resurfacing projects by assessing adjacent property owners and public financing tools such as municipal bonds. The City calculates assessments based on the square footage of a lot. Property owners only pay a portion of the cost of the project while the remaining costs are paid for by the City selling municipal bonds.

Prior to the commencement of the resurfacing work the City affords private utilities (e.g., CenterPoint Energy, Xcel Energy) the opportunity to come in first to complete work they need to have done. But generally speaking, resurfacing projects occur fairly quickly and should take approximately 2 to 3 days to complete, depending on the number of layers of asphalt going back on the roadway.

Trembath advised that the City has been experimenting with previous concrete and asphalt for storm water retention but it will not be a part of these resurfacing projects. They are also going to a pilot project for some reconditioning of concrete streets in NE Minneapolis.

When asked about the streets around the new stadium over the next couple years, Trembath advised that there are project coordinators assigned to the area and that he would send their information onto the board.

For more information about these resurfacing projects visit the links provided below:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-118132>

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-118143>

IV. Catholic Eldercare

Diane Lucas, Volunteer Program and Outreach Manager, distributed information folders and gave a brief history of Catholic Eldercare. Founded in 1983, they have been in NE Minneapolis going on 31 years. The campus is spread out between Main Street NE up to 29th and Randolph and is comprised of two independent living apartment properties, two assisted living facilities, 150-bed skilled nursing home, and this spring they hope to build a 24-bed transitional care unit.

Although called Catholic Eldercare, they are non-denominational and are not connected to the Archdiocese. CE's community of senior residences offers older adults a variety of residential opportunities that enable them to live life to the fullest.

Lucas advised that in order to raise awareness of their services, they are available to give presentations to community groups. For more information, visit <http://www.catholiceldercare.org/>.

V. Community Development

- ***Block 1 Liner Parcel (728 South 4th Street) RFP.*** Bob Lind, Director of Business Finance, Minneapolis CPED, gave the board an update on the two proposals that were submitted for the Block 1 Liner Parcel site adjacent to the new Vikings stadium project. He provided the

board with a summary sheet that highlighted the key components of the proposals from Ryan Companies and Mortenson Construction. The board took no action at this time. For more information click on the below link to the RFP:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-118845.pdf>

- ***Valspar Corporation Sign Variance Application.*** Roger Christensen from HCM Architects with the aide of display boards presented the variance request for the Valspar Applied Science and Technology (VAST) campus located at 1101 South 3rd Street. The proposed steel sign will be hung in the middle of the 5-story building in the rear and a variance is needed to increase the maximum height from 28 feet to 43.6 feet. Jackie Barrett of Valspar described the ghost sign that was revealed during renovation then gave the timeline for completion and final move in by February 14th. She also noted that Valspar is in need of new recruits and asked if anyone knew someone with a chemistry background to send them their way. After a few questions and additional discussion,

Sweet moved and DiDonato seconded a motion to support Valspar's sign variance application to increase the maximum height of the sign from 28 feet to 43.6 feet. Winkler called for discussion. The motion passed.

VI. Committee Reports

Cichowicz summarized the purpose of the committee reports and noted that he met with DiDonato and Jones to discuss strategic planning and board meeting structure. That group discussed the idea of having the Community Development Committee meet before the board meeting, as opposed to having land use items on the board meeting agenda. They also discussed the idea of moving the board meeting locations around every month, as opposed to having them at the Central Library. The group concluded that these ideas should be discussed when the majority of the board is present at a separate meeting outside of a board meeting.

Rock and Sweet advised that the entire board should be made aware of these meetings and that they should be publicized.

- ***Arts, Culture and Education.*** This committee has not met since the January board meeting.
- ***Crime and Safety.*** Kittock mentioned that at the Minneapolis Downtown Council's annual meeting they indicated a 38% reduction in crimes of the Downtown 100 and encouraged those who have not done so yet to attend the next Court Watch meeting at 10 a.m. on the second Friday in February. She also described what Court Watch is and praised the collaboration of the various private/public entities.

Zenner mentioned that on the prior evening they held a Minneapolis riverfront HOA collaboration with about 12 buildings represented. One of their big priorities is safety, security and surveillance and could see them joining forces with Court Watch.

- ***Strategic Planning/Implementation.*** There was discussion regarding having a strategic planning session outside of a board meeting to talk about board meeting format and content, locations, dates, committee structure, and community engagement and outreach. After an in-depth discussion,

Winkler moved and Kittock seconded a motion to identify a Saturday in March or April to host a strategic planning session. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

Rock will initiate a Doodle meeting poll to find a meeting date that works with the majority of the group's schedules. Winkler suggested that once a meeting date is solidified that Council Member Jacob Frey be invited as well as David Tinjum from the Mill District Neighborhood Association.

VII. Community Participation Program

Rock introduced DMNA's new NCR Neighborhood Specialists Carrie Aspinwall who expounded upon her experience as community engagement activists. Aspinwall stated that the board's discussion on engagement is relevant and exciting and that it needs to try different things to accomplish its goals. Passion about the topics will be what drives community participation and attendance at board meetings. The board's broad experience, access to the downtown vertical residential community, and engagement with different organizations will ensure communication will happen naturally. She looks forward to working with the board on implementing its NRP Phase II plan, as well as helping prepare it prepare its CPP Neighborhood Priorities Plan.

VIII. Neighborhood Revitalization Program

- ***Consideration of transferring Downtown Development monies in the NRP Phase I Implementation contract to the NRP Phase II Downtown Development Strategy.***

Sweet moved and DiDonato seconded a motion to recommend approval of transferring \$10,790 in Downtown Development monies in the NRP Phase I Implementation contract to the NRP Phase II Downtown Development Strategy. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

IX. Consideration of January Board Meeting Minutes, February Financial and Staff Reports

Winkler moved and Kittock seconded a motion to approve the January 16, 2014 board meeting minutes, February 2014 Financial and February 2014 staff reports. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

X. Old business / new business / other business

- ***Outreach and collaboration with other downtown organizations.*** Reference the Outreach and Collaboration chart and attachments emailed from Sweet in advance of the meeting.
- ***Downtown Minneapolis School Initiative.*** Kittock reported the following:
 - They have taken a tour of Webster School; it's an open school plan. Renovation is expected to start in June. They have asked MPS give strong consideration to making it a school with a community garden, making it part of the curriculum and part of the central theme.
 - The initiative has established a relationship with the *Girls on the Run* Program, which will be introduced at the commencement of the first school year in 2015. For more information visit <http://www.gotrwcities.org/>.

- The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 18th at RiverWest to give input. Kittock commented that this is an exciting initiative and is going gangbusters, top speed.
- *Request to add neighborhood comment section at the top of the board meeting agenda.*

Winkler moved and Kittock seconded a motion to add a public comment section to the DMNA Board meeting agenda. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

XI. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. (Sweet and DiDonato)

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Chair

Secretary